

Rogue-Siskiyou forest centennial observed

With a theme of “Celebrating the Past; Looking to the Future,” the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) held a reunion-style celebration to commemorate the centennial of the Rogue-Siskiyou National Forest in Grants Pass in an atmosphere of optimism and enthusiasm.

More than 300 employees and retirees assembled on Thursday, March 1 at the Josephine County Fairgrounds to meet old friends, enjoy displays, and listen to music and speeches.

Many of the displays and programs covered the history of the national forest during the past century. Many of the employees viewing displays reminisced, but there seemed to also be considerable discussion about the future.

“I am very optimistic about the future,” said Scott Conroy, Siskiyou National Forest supervisor, referring to public support for forest restoration. During his speech he shared a vision for the future of Rogue-Siskiyou National Forest that includes a desire to create sustainable landscapes, a healthy forest, clean water, and a work environment that makes forest service employees a respected partner in the organization.

Planning is not a new concept for employees like Acting Forest Silviculturalist Paul Trodeau, who is involved in vegetation management and forest planning.

“Wildlife managers, foresters, firefighters, and recreation managers come to me and tell me what kind of forest attributes they want,” she said. “It is my job to recommend the vegetation management that will get the results the public deserves,” she said.

Her job is no easy task because her planning also must include additional considerations such as leaving dead wood on the ground for wildlife habitat or for soil building, which is important to forest health. Some projects she works on include steps or phases that extend to the span of decades or even a century.

Indeed, the projects she plans today may well be the resources that future generations will enjoy at the next centennial celebration of Rogue-Siskiyou National Forest.

Katy Mallams, a plant pathologist with South West Oregon Insect and Disease Center in Central Point, brought up other issues facing USFS.

“The global trade network is bringing more plant diseases and exotic insects to this continent, and this may cause significant problems for us,” she said. She referred to present-day disease problems like Port Orford cedar root rot and sudden oak death as examples.

Seniors sought

Senior citizens and other community members are sought to join the Senior Advisory Council for Josephine County.

Applications are available from Rogue Valley Council of Governments. Phone 423-1384, Ext. 226.

The 23-member council is an advisory body to the council of governments for senior services.

“Fortunately, people really care about what happens in the forest, and I think that is going to help reduce the spread of plant diseases now and in the future,” said Mallams.

Also attending the event were members of the Job Council forest crew with many members in their late teens. Gina Masiak, a crew member from Grants Pass, feels that the work they are doing has a lot to contribute to the future.

“We are working on developing trails, camping areas, and helping to reduce fuels,” she said. “All of this work is going to make the forest a better place for the future.”

Sara Hanes, also from Grants Pass, said that their work will make the forest more productive, more usable, and more scenic.

“I feel that the future of the forest is more our responsibility if we want a healthy place to live,” she said. Both expressed interests in hiking and camping with friends.

The group’s crew



Scott Conroy, Siskiyou National Forest supervisor (right), with Job Council Forestry Stewardship Crew. (Photos by Roger Brandt)

leader, Stacie Grier, feels that programs like the Job Council are important to the future of the Rogue-Siskiyou National Forest.

“We place emphasis on building team skills and work ethics and try to provide a variety of educational opportunities,” said Grier. “We are lucky that the forest service provides a very nurturing work environment for the Job Council. Maintaining programs like this is vital to the future of the community.”

“And our program is vital for building a future generation of public land stewards.”

Janet Joyer, the archaeologist at the Grants Pass office, grew up with her parents working for USFS.

“It was a real family feeling with everyone helping to raise each other’s children and doing things together,” she said with great fondness for her child-

hood memories. She continued that she had the same feeling with all the people she met at the reunion.

“I didn’t really recognize that many people, but I felt like we all were one big family,” Joyer stated.

She added that she has seen changes during the years she has grown up with and worked for the forest service.



Carroll Brown

of people working for the agency, and it is common to see women working in a wide variety of challenging jobs.”

She feels that a diversified workforce is important to the USFS future.

The group enjoyed Bluegrass-style music played by a group of forest service employees from Prineville. There also was a three-screen video presentation on the history of the Rogue-Siskiyou National Forest assembled by Jess Webb, owner of Sights and Sounds Production in Grants Pass.

Speakers included several retired forest supervisors. The oldest is 99-year-old Carroll Brown, nearly as old as the national forest itself. He walked to

the front of the room with a walker and gave a speech using notes written on a small piece of paper.

One of his accomplishments was hiring the first female administrator in this national forest, something he did when men held all the management positions, as was expected at that time. His hiring a woman was done while enduring a great deal of protest from the regional office.

Each district gave a 10-minute presentation on its history and recent achievements. Roger Brandt provided an excellent presentation for the Cave Junction-based Wild Rivers District.

Joel King, district ranger of the Wild Rivers Ranger District, summarized the day by saying, “The future looks bright as long as we continue to foster a strong sense of our community and forest restoration.”

“When I was young,” she explained, “there were hardly any women working in the agency much less working out in the field. Now there is a greater diversity

Student Achievers

Culver On UO Dean’s List

Kamela Ryan Culver, daughter of Steve & Suzie Culver, of Illinois Valley, attained the Dean’s List for fall term 2006-07 at University of Oregon at Eugene.

She is a 2006 graduate of I.V. High School.

IVHS Seniors Gain Three of Six Scholarships

Three seniors at Illinois Valley High School have been awarded three of six scholarships bestowed by Grants Pass Elks Lodge 1584.

“There was intense competition, and it was a difficult decision for our judging committee to select the six seniors,” said Robert Corwin, committee chairman. IVHS winners:

*Emily Harris (\$1,000).

*Ian Barker-Cortrecht (\$1,000).

*Graham Baker (\$500).

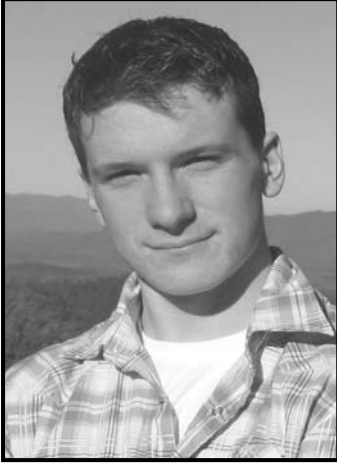
Other winners are Piper Dobner, of Grants Pass High; Garrett Garcea, of North Valley High (\$750

each); and Jeannette Krannick, of North Valley (\$500).

Spencer Kendall Student of Month

Spencer Kendall, a senior at Illinois Valley High School, is Josephine County Board of Commissioners Student of the Month for February.

He is the son of Dave and Susan Kendall, of rural



Spencer Kendall

Cave Junction. He has maintained a 3.7 grade-point average.

Kendall has held the office of Associated Student

Body class representative for three years, and is current president of the IVHS Chapter of the National Honor Society.

He is a member of Mathletes, Cougar Pals, leadership class, MAD (Music Appreciation and Development), and Model U.N. He is on the IVHS mountain bike team that has been the Oregon state champion for the past three years.

Kendall has been awarded three Scholar Athlete awards, and four varsity letters. He was a homecoming prince in 2004, and was Winter Ball king in 2007.

After graduation, Kendall will attend University of Oregon at Eugene to major in health sciences. He hopes to pursue a career in sports medicine.

The honored student said that he feels passionate about that career because he has broken three bones, all while playing sports, and he wants to help those “who endure that kind of torture.”

DeFazio highway chairman; opposes Iran action

U.S. Congressman Peter DeFazio is the new chairman of the House Highways and Transit Subcommittee, announced James Oberstar, chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

DeFazio was elected by his colleagues during a meeting of the Democratic Caucus of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

“I am looking forward to tackling the tremendous challenges we face to plan, build and pay for a 21st cen-

tury transportation system,” DeFazio said.

“We must begin a review of the current highway program, SAFETEA-LU. We will look into the push by the Bush administration to privatize and toll existing interstates.

“We also will examine the myriad safety issues posed by the possibility of allowing Mexican trucks in the United States, hours of service for truck drivers, and cyclists on rural roads. We must also improve mass transit.”

DeFazio also has reintroduced a resolution calling on the president to seek authorization from Congress prior to taking any military action against Iran.

DeFazio said that he has been concerned about the issue since early 2005, when various news reports, including a report by Seymour Hersh, who won a Pulitzer Prize for uncovering the My Lai massacre in Vietnam, indicated that the administration was planning military action against Iran.

COMPUTER CLASSES AT THE ILLINOIS VALLEY FAMILY COALITION

The Illinois Valley Family Coalition is sponsoring a series of computer classes for beginners. Sign up right away to reserve your seat. You must enroll for either the 3:00 PM or 5:00 PM starting times. These classes are not interchangeable as seating is limited at each session. Class size is limited to 11 students.

Session one – Introduction to Computers – 3 classes

This session introduces the very basics for those who have little to no prior experience.

		Class A	Class B
Tuesday	March 20	3 – 4:30 PM	5:00 – 6:30 PM
Thursday	March 22	3 – 4:30 PM	5:00 – 6:30 PM
Tuesday	March 27	3 – 4:30 PM	5:00 – 6:30 PM

Session two – File Management – 2 classes

Where is my file? It just disappeared!! You will learn where to put your files so you will always be able to find them. Before you sign up for this class, you should have either taken Session one (above) or you must have beginning knowledge of computer use. This class is a prerequisite for Sessions 3 & 4.

		Class C	Class D
Thursday	April 5	3 – 4:30 PM	5:00 – 6:30 PM
Tuesday	April 10	3 – 4:30 PM	5:00 – 6:30 PM

Session three – Word – 4 classes

How to create personal and business letters, reports and other documents. File Management is a prerequisite for this class.

		Class E	Class F
Tuesday	April 17	3 – 4:30 PM	5:00 – 6:30 PM
Thursday	April 19	3 – 4:30 PM	5:00 – 6:30 PM
Tuesday	April 24	3 – 4:30 PM	5:00 – 6:30 PM
Thursday	April 26	3 – 4:30 PM	5:00 – 6:30 PM

Session four – Excel/Spreadsheet – 5 classes

How to format spreadsheets, sort data, and create formulas to automate calculations. File Management is a prerequisite for this class.

		Class G	Class H
Thursday	May 3	3 – 4:30 PM	5:00 – 6:30 PM
Tuesday	May 8	3 – 4:30 PM	5:00 – 6:30 PM
Thursday	May 10	3 – 4:30 PM	5:00 – 6:30 PM
Tuesday	May 15	3 – 4:30 PM	5:00 – 6:30 PM
Thursday	May 17	3 – 4:30 PM	5:00 – 6:30 PM



Illinois Valley Family Coalition
535 E. River Street, Cave Junction
Phone 592-6139 to reserve your space.
Sliding scale fees based on income.



I. V. Branch Library News & Happenings
Library hours: Wed. 12-6, Sat. 1-5

Check out your library online at www.solis.lib.or.us

The 15 branches of the Jackson County Library System will close at the end of the workday on Friday, April 6. (A serial tax levy for library funding has been placed on the May 15 ballot in Jackson County.)

This closure affects Josephine County Library patrons in the following ways:

1. No current or future requests for items from Jackson County will be filled. However, Josephine County patrons can check out items at all Jackson County libraries in person.
2. All Jackson County library materials must be returned on or before April 6. Items can be renewed until March 28. Josephine County patrons may wish to make a copy of their request screen for future reference.